



# Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## News Release

June 7, 2000

CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

### **BROWNBACK STRONGLY SUPPORTS KEEPING PROMISE OF HEALTH CARE FOR NATION'S RETIRED VETERANS**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today offered the following comments after the Senate's 96 - 1 passage of the Warner Amendment to the Defense Authorization legislation (S.2549). This amendment would extend eligibility for medical care under CHAMPUS and TRICARE to veterans over age 64.

"Clearly, in order to maintain a strong military, now and in the future, our country must honor its commitments to military retirees and veterans," Brownback said.

"I am dedicated to both active duty and retired troops, and therefore I am extremely pleased by the Senate's passage of the Warner amendment today. This amendment extends the eligibility for medical care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) and TRICARE to persons over age 64. Therefore, retirees who are now getting only medicare coverage would have their full rights, in terms of health care, restored as they were when the retirees were on active duty.

"Last year the Senate began to address critical recruitment and retention problems currently facing our nation's Armed Services. While there were many improvements, including a 4.8% pay raise for members of the military and reforms to the retirement system, these improvements, as important as they were, simply did not solve our country's difficulty in recruiting and keeping the best and brightest of our citizens in the military. More must be done, and the Warner amendment is a step in the right direction.

"Healthcare is a priority, and I wholeheartedly support this amendment. Keeping our promise of health care coverage to the men and women who served in our nation's military is absolutely the proper thing to do," Brownback said.